NONPOINT SOURCE TIMES

Volume 12, Issue 2 Spring 2003

Nonpoint Source Outreach toolbox Under Development

In April 2000, the States (under the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators) and EPA formed a Nonpoint Source Outreach Workgroup (Workgroup) to help address the education and outreach needs of the nonpoint source community. The Workgroup's mission is to raise public awareness and to foster behavior changes to reduce nonpoint source pollution. The Workgroup researched, by conducting focus groups and consulting with behavior change experts, various techniques for how best to reach the general public with the nonpoint source pollution message. The Workgroup decided that the most effective way of reaching the public is to provide the information and tools necessary for state and local agencies and organizations to launch their own location-specific nonpoint source pollution outreach campaigns.

The cornerstone of the Workgroup's effort is to create an expandable "toolbox" of strategies and sample materials, initially geared toward changing personal behaviors in and around the home to prevent nonpoint source pollution (i.e., personal stewardship). The toolbox will contain two major parts: (1) a *How-to* guide for launching a local nonpoint source pollution outreach campaign; and (2) sample materials or templates (in various formats) that could be used and easily tailored to the community's local problems and barriers to adopting better habits.

The *How-to* guide expands upon the existing outreach guide *Getting in Step: A Guide*

(Continued on page 2)

Inside This Issue

Watershed Coalition Formed as a Result of Watershed Survey

In the spring of 2000 the Great Works River Watershed Survey Project was funded through the 319 program to produce an assessment report of nonpoint sources to determine specific sites to promote adoption of BMPs to achieve significant reductions of phosphorus loads to the Great Works River. Phosphorus loads from the Great Works River were determined, in a 1996 TMDL report, to have a detrimental effect on the Salmon Falls Estuary. This initial watershed survey project has escalated into something far greater than merely generating data – it has led to the formation of the Great Works River Watershed Coalition. The

(Continued on page 7)

NPS Pollution Grants Request For Proposals

Maine DEP expects to issue the FY 2004 Request For Proposals for Nonpoint Source Projects in mid-March 2003. Projects are to help restore or protect lakes, streams, or coastal waters that are polluted or considered threatened. Grants will be funded with monies provided to Maine by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Section 319(h) of the Federal Clean Water Act. Maine public organizations such as state agencies, soil and water conservation districts, regional planning agencies, watershed districts, municipalities, and nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible recipients.

The RFP will invite watershed-scale projects that benefit waters listed as "NPS Priority Watersheds" or "TMDL waters". A portion of funds will be allocated for projects crafted to help restore 303(d) listed waters that have an approved TMDL analysis. Three types of projects will be invited: Watershed Projects, Watershed Surveys, and Development of Watershed Management Plans. DEP plans to devote about 80% of the funds for NPS Watershed Projects. A NPS Watershed Project focuses on implementing actions in a watershed to improve or protect a waterbody. The project is designed so that BMPs are implemented in a manner that leads to a significant reduction in NPS pollutant load to a waterbody.

There is considerable opportunity to obtain a NPS grant to help protect or restore Maine's clean waters. As an outcome of last years RFP, this spring DEP is scheduled to award about $670,000 for 13 projects. DEP had received twenty-four proposals.

The 2004 RFP will be posted at DEP website www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/grants.htm#319
FMI contact: Norm Marcotte, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Watershed Management, 17 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, norm.g.marcotte@maine.gov or 207-287-7727

(Continued from page 1)

to Effective Outreach in Your Watershed (available at www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/ outreach/documents/), which provides guidance to states and local entities for launching nonpoint source pollution outreach campaigns that are locally meaningful. The expanded guide will provide tips on applying community-based social marketing techniques, such as how to decide which personal behavior to focus on and which outreach tool is best suited to watershed-specific issues and target audiences. The expanded guide will also provide information on conducting outreach using mass media, printed materials, and creative, community-based events, presentations, or other outreach methods (such as watershed fairs, contests, water bill inserts, hotlines, discount cards, etc.). A video version of the *Getting in Step* manual is also being produced to accompany the guide. The 30-minute video will showcase four watershed community events around the country and the various outreach techniques they integrated into their efforts to accomplish their goals.

The updated guide and video are scheduled to be completed by mid 2003, with distribution information available at www.epa.gov/owow/nps/outreach.html. The Workgroup also plans to initiate work on the second part of the toolbox (creating sample materials or templates) at the beginning of 2003.

For more information, contact Jack Wilbur, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, via e-mail at: jackwilbur@utah.gov or phone: 801-538-7098; or Don Waye, EPA Headquarters, via e-mail at waye.don@epa.gov or phone: 202-566-1170.

Up and Coming NPS Management Measures

EPA continues to finalize the National Management Measures guidance series. Each document is a technical guidance and reference document for use by local, state, and tribal managers in the implementation of nonpoint source pollution management programs. Following is a brief update on the up and coming guidances.

- The draft *National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Urban Areas* is open for public review and comment at www.epa.gov/owow/nps/urbanmm/index.html. It contains information on the best available, economically achievable means of reducing pollution of surface and ground water from urban areas. Please send comments by January 15, 2003, to Rod Frederick, EPA, at frederick.rod@epa.gov.
- The *National Management Measures to Protect and Restore Wetlands and Riparian Areas for the Abatement of Nonpoint Source Pollution* will be finalized in December 2002. This guidance is intended to provide the best available, economically achievable means of reducing nonpoint source pollution of surface and ground water through the protection and restoration of

(Continued on page 9)

Request For Community Based Habitat Restoration Proposals

The American Sport fishing Association's (ASA) FishAmerica Foundation invites proposals for the citizen-driven habitat restoration projects in 2003 under its partnership with the Community-based Restoration Program within NOAA Fisheries. The partnership encourages local efforts to accomplish meaningful on-the-ground restoration of marine, estuarine and riparian habitats, including salt marshes, seagrass beds, coral reefs, mangrove forests, and freshwater habitats important to anadromous fish species (fish like salmon and striped bass that spawn in freshwater and migrate to the sea). Emphasis is on using a hands-on, grassroots approach to restore fisheries habitat across coastal America.

Projects must result in on-the-ground habitat restoration, clearly demonstrate significant benefits to marine, estuarine or anadromous fisheries resources, particularly sportfish, and must involve community participation through an educational or volunteer component tied to the restoration activities. Where possible, participation of NOAA staff is encouraged to strengthen the development and implementation of sound restoration projects.

Proposals will be jointly evaluated by NOAA technical staff and FishAmerica staff, ranked, and recommendations forwarded to the FishAmerica Conservation Projects Committee for funding consideration.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criterion:

- Extent to which the project will improve habitat for fisheries resources;
- Technical merit and project feasibility;
- Specificity of results, benefits and products;
- Cost effectiveness and budget detail and justification;
- Partnership/Cooperation from community groups and other organizations.

The total amount of funding awarded under this solicitation will depend on the total funds made available to the FishAmerica Foundation/NOAA Restoration Center partnership. Funding requests typically fall within the range of $5,000 to $30,000. Proposals can be part of a larger restoration project funded through additional sources, however a discrete project objective must be completed within one year of an award. Be sure to list all pending and received matching funds for the project by category (e.g. salaries and supplies). Matching funds can consist of a combination of cash donations, in-kind services and/or volunteer labor. Funding requests for administrative salaries, overhead, monitoring expenses and travel will not be considered.

When applying for funds, please submit the following:

- **Two unstapled originals and one unstapled copy of the completed application outline** with a detailed budget, timeline of project activities, and project description. Applicants must download the grant application format from http://www.fishamerica.org;
- **Letter of Support** from the appropriate state resource agency;
- Evidence of the recipient organization's **tax-exempt status**.

Additional supporting documentation such as maps, photographs, and design plans are strongly encouraged but not required.

In addition to the information requested on the application outline, please submit the information listed below:

Congressional district of applicant (http://congress.org/congressorg/dbq/officials);

- Longitude/Latitude coordinates of project site (in decimal degrees, if available).

(Continued on page 4)

Briefs

The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission announces the publication of the Illicit Discharge and Elimination Manual: **A Handbook for Municipalities**. It is available on the "What's New" page of the NEIWPCC web site (www.neiwpcc.org).

Proposed legislation has major implications for LMF. Legislation has been introduced to prohibit the Land for Maine's Future Program from funding land conservation projects for local land trusts and municipalities (LD 94 and 176). Such a prohibition would slow vital land conservation efforts at the local level and would be likely to reduce the State's ability to attract the needed financial matching contributions for these projects. In addition, this legislation (LD 94) would prohibit the State from contracting for management services on conservation lands, a step that would end several successful state/local and public/private partnerships as well as increasing state costs. A third piece of legislation (LD 92) would require the approval of the Legislature's Agriculture Committee for most LMF projects, an unprecedented additional step that is likely to deter landowners from participating in the Land for Maine's Future Program. LMF and its partner agencies offered

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 3)

Applicants should submit their proposals for Community-based restoration projects to the FishAmerica Foundation at:

Grant Applications – NOAA/FAF RFP
FishAmerica Foundation
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

The proposals must be received no later than March 12, 2003 at 5:00 PM. Funding will be announced in June 2003. Additional information on project status may be requested before awards are finalized by contacting FishAmerica at fishamerica@asafishing.org.

For more information on the FishAmerica Foundation, or the NOAA Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) and its partners, please visit the following websites:

FishAmerica Foundation: http://www.fishamerica.org
NOAA Restoration Center Community-based Restoration Program: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/community/index.html

Highland Lake Conservation Project

The Highland Lake Conservation Project was one of the first implementations of a watershed management plan in the State of Maine. It aimed to improve or maintain stable water quality in Highland Lake through education, technology transfer and on-the-ground fixes. The Priority Watershed Protection Grants Program of the State of Maine, which provides financial assistance for conducting locally supported watershed management projects, funded the project. The lead agency was the Cumberland County Soil and Watershed Conservation District and primary partners included the Highland Lake Association, private road associations, MDEP, the Towns of Falmouth and Windham, and the City of Westbrook.

Highland Lake is a 623-acre lake located in eastern Cumberland County in Southern Maine. The lake's watershed covers approximately 8.5 square miles in Falmouth, Windham and Westbrook.

Highland Lake has experienced a gradual decline in water quality over the past several years. The average annual secchi disk reading over the past decade is about one meter less than it was in the previous decade, which signals an increase in algae and sediment in the lake. In addition,

Crest Haven Before

the average dissolved oxygen in the lake's bottom layer during September has dropped to levels that threaten the lake's trout fishery.

The project began in June of 1999 and was just completed in February of 2003. Overall, CCSWCD was tremendously successful in implementing the work plan and nearly every goal exceeded. While we had the goal of completing 30 technical assistance visits, all totaled, 147 technical assistance visits were completed. This was largely due to the great success of the Youth Conservation Corps program, which generated remarkable interest on the part of the Highland Lake community.

Three road workshops and four buffer workshops were carried out. After the first year, where we carried out a traditional buffer workshop and installed 30 shrubs and trees in a right of way, we took a new approach to buffer workshops – Cruising the Buffers. We loaded people into pontoon boats and cruised the shorelines of Highland Lake highlighting good, marginal and total lack of buffers. At every cruise the buffer workshop (we had 3) we signed up at least ten people for technical assistance visits to get advice on what native vegetation they could plant on their properties.

All workshops were well attended, which was due, in part, to the outreach network that was established. This outreach network, which was composed of one contact for each road in the watershed, was the distribution mechanism for all project-related material. This served two purposes: it cut down on mailing costs and it provided an opportunity for one-on-one information transfer to occur.

On-the-ground fixes were the major focus of this project. 15 road sites was the goal of the project, and we completed 22! It was estimated that by completing these 22 road sites, approximately 112 tons of sediment (~949 lbs of phosphorus), was saved from entering Highland Lake on

(Continued on page 8)

NPS Training Center Winter / Spring Schedule

Erosion Control

1) Basic Erosion and Sediment Control Practices Cost $45
Session #J0344 Boothbay, February 19, 2003, The Carousel Marina
Session #J0345 Skowhegan, March 7, 2003, Ken' s Celebration Center
Description: This course is geared toward contractors and is the first of two courses that need to be taken in order to participate in the Voluntary Contractor Certification Program for Erosion Control Practices. In addition to a section on "Why Erosion Control is Important", and laws and regulations, basic stabilization techniques including silt fence, hay and bark mulch, and ditching, are covered. A small group exercise on planning erosion control on a small site is also used as a means to incorporate topics covered.

2) Advanced Erosion Control Practices Cost: $45
Session #J0347 Brunswick, March 14, 2003, The Brunswick Travel Lodge
Session #J0348 Farmington, March 21, 2003, The Granary
Description: This course is again geared toward contractors and is the second of two courses that need to be taken in order to participate in the Voluntary Contractor Certification Program for Erosion Control Practices. This is the more advanced course and includes a review of the basic techniques as well as vegetative stabilization, road crossings and geotextiles. A small group exercise on planning erosion control on a larger more complicated development site is also used as a means to incorporate topics covered.

3) Certified Professional In Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) Primer Cost: $80, Exam Cost: $45
Session #J0346 Augusta, March 11, 2003, Augusta Civic Center
Session #J0350 Augusta April 18, 2003, Augusta Civic Center
Description: This Primer Course and Exam is part of training and certification under the CPESC Program. This is an international certification program administered by CPESC Inc. The training course covers local laws and regulations on erosion control, predicting soil loss, site planning, runoff control, soil stabilization and sediment control. The course further provides an exam Study Guide and refresher exercise on erosion control principles. The Exam is an eight-hour test that takes place approximately one month from the primer date in order to provide ample time to study.

4) Conference on Innovative Erosion Control Products: Slope Reinforcement Using Geotextiles Cost : $50
Session #J0349 Augusta, April 8, 2003, Augusta Civic Center
Description: This conference will showcase the use of slope reinforcement products and techniques. It's primary purpose is to provide information on alternative methods of slope stabilization that do not use traditional materials such as riprap. These alternative methods minimize encroachment into resources and may be less costly than traditional means. The conference is geared toward engineers, consultants, contractors, landscape architects and resource agency personnel.

Septic System Installation

5) Basic Installation Cost $40
Session #J0325 Farmington, February 5, 2003, The Granary, 147 Pleasant Street
Session #J0329 Waldo, March 20, 2003, Waldo Town Office
Description: This Course will provide training in the proper installation of subsurface sewage disposal systems in accordance with the Maine State Plumbing Code. Topics covered include: system components, installation procedure, types of systems, proper fill materials, environmental laws, etc. Once this course is completed, participants qualify to become

(Continued from page 3)
testimony opposing this legislation on 2/10. CONTACT: Tim Glidden at 287-1487 or **tim.glidden@maine.gov**

Watershed grants deadline is March 14. The Maine Shore Stewards through the Maine Coastal Program is offering $5,000 - $15,000 grants to citizen groups, nonprofit organizations, municipalities, regional planning commissions, soil and water conservation districts, and other regional partnerships engaged in watershed management and nonpoint source pollution control in priority coastal watersheds. Applicants that are not public entities or applicants who do not have a 501c(3) designation must have a fiscal sponsor that does have such a designation. The grants are available for projects located in one of the Nonpoint Source Priority Coastal Watersheds or eight (8) listed salmon river watersheds. Total funds available are $45,000. Eligible projects include watershed surveys and assessments for nonpoint sources of pollution, local or organizational capacity building, nonpoint source education, citizen monitoring work (with preference to enhancements to existing programs), and watershed planning. The deadline for applications is Friday, March 14, 2003. For more information or to obtain the RFP, link to www.mainecoastalprogram.org CONTACT: Todd Janeski at 287-1482 or **Todd.Janeski@maine.gov**

(Continued from page 5)
certified in System Installation by the Department of Human Services. The course is geared toward contractors, site evaluators, plumbing inspectors and anyone who would like to become more knowledgeable in system installation.

6) Advanced Plumbing Code Review Cost: $40
Session #J0327 Augusta, March 5, 2003, Civic Center Holiday Inn
Session #J0330 Machias/Whitneyville, April 1, 2003, Hillgrove Community Center
Description: This Course will provide training in the interpretation of the Maine State Plumbing Code and is designed for those individuals who have experience with working with the code in designing and installing septic systems. The course is geared toward plumbing inspectors, septic system installers, site evaluators, consultants, engineers etc. who would like to become more knowledgeable in interpretation of the code.

7) Septic System Inspection Cost : $40
Session #J0326 Portland, February 20, 2003, Holiday Inn West
Session #J0328 Lewiston, March 12, 2002, Ramada Inn
Session #J0331 Brewer, April 2, 2003, Jeff's Catering
Session #J0332 Presque Isle, April 3, 2003, Northeastland Hotel
Description: This Course will provide training in the proper inspection of subsurface sewage disposal systems in accordance with guidelines developed by the Maine Association of Site Evaluators. Topics covered include: record searches, system components, types of systems, system failure and proper completion of the inspection report form. Once this course is completed, participants qualify to become certified in System Inspection by the Department of Human Services. The course is geared toward home inspectors, system pumpers, site evaluators, consultants, engineers, etc. who would like to become involved in these system inspections

Stormwater Management

5) HydroCad For Engineers Cost : $225
Session #J0324 Scarborough, April 17, 2003, MDOT Div.6 Office
Description: This Course will provide training in the proper use of HydroCad software as it relates to stormwater management on development sites. It was developed to assist engineers who design stormwater management plans for regulated development projects throughout the state.
9) Landscaping For Lake Protection Cost: Free
Session #J0351 Newport, May 31, 2003
Session #J0352 Glenburn, June 28, 2003
Session #J0353 Blue Hill / Sedgewick, July 2003
Description: This Course will provide training in the concept of lake friendly living. Topics covere d include buffer location and design, stormwater management, erosion control, the design of pathways and recreational areas and housekeeping practices. The course is geared toward shorefront property owners, property owners in lake watersheds and municipal officials.

FMI contact:
J.E.T.C.C.
P.O. Box 487
Scarborough, Maine 04070-0487
Tel. 253-8020

Please note the deadline for registration is 8 days prior to the scheduled course date

Please register for the courses below by contacting the Soil and Water Conservation Districts at the numbers provided.

Maintenance of Unpaved Roads Camp Road Maintenance (Use of Front Runner)

- North Berwick, April 14, 2003. *To register, contact the York County SWCD at: 324-7015*
- Kennebec County, May 23, 2003. *To register, contact the Kennebec County SWCD at: 622-7847*
- Sabattus, June 27, 2003. *To register, contact the Andrscoggin Valley County SWCD at: 753-9400*
- Industry, July 10, 2003. *To register, contact the Franklin County SWCD at: 778-4279*
- Nobleboro. July 12, 2003 . *To register, contact the Knox-Lincoln County SWCD at: 273-2005*

Description: This Course will provide training in the maintenance of unpaved roads and in the proper use of the Front Runner road maintenance device. The device is designed to be used by owners of camp roads to properly maintain their road so that is passable and does not impact lake water quality. The course is geared toward shorefront property owners, property owners in lake watersheds and municipal officials.

Contractor Training

Houlton, February 28, 2003. *To register, contact the So, Aroostook County SWCD at: 532-2087*

- North Berwick, March 14, 2003 . *To register, contact the York County SWCD at: 324-7015*
- Rangeley, April 16, 2003 . *To register, contact the Franklin County SWCD at: 778-4279*
- Waldo, April 18, 2003 . *To register, contact the Waldo County SWCD at: 338-1964*
- Augusta, April 25, 2003 . *To register, contact the Kennebec County SWCD at: 622-7847*

Description: This Course will provide training in the maintenance of unpaved roads to ensure that the roads are passable and do not impact lake water quality. The course is designed for contractors who maintain these roads and will provide instruction on maintenance techniques as well as in marketing properly maintained roads to their customers.

(Continued from page 1)
Coalition is comprised of citizens living and working in the watershed municipalities of Berwick, South Berwick, North Berwick, Sanford, Wells, and York in the southwest corner of Maine.

The survey began during the late summer, 2000 as a potentially overwhelming task. There were 68 square miles of land to survey (out of an 84 square mile watershed) and there was an absence of an active association or "friends of' group to draw volunteers from. Thankfully, the project Steering Committee provided excellent guidance and the final result has been extraordinary. Various adjustments were made throughout the course of the project to adjust to limitations that became apparent. For example, conducting a thorough survey of the 68 square mile lower watershed was unrealistic given the resources at hand. Therefore, the Steering Committee advised the project staff to limit survey work on private lands but still attempt to survey all that could be seen from the roadways in the watershed. This influenced the final product significantly as the majority of sites observed by volunteers and technical staff were located on state, town, and private roadways. Another example of flexibility and ingenuity to address the large size of the watershed was the decision to hold two separate training sessions and survey the southern and northern halves of the project area separately. An unexpected benefit of this decision was an increased number of people that were introduced to the project.

The design of this project was similar to many of the lake watershed survey projects in that there were training sessions on Saturday mornings with small volunteer groups (each accompanied by a technical leader) covering sectors. The watershed was divided into 11 sectors and volunteers were provided with topographical maps of their sector as well as GIS maps that highlighted possible "hot spots" for polluted runoff. The "hot spots" maps proved to be somewhat helpful, especially in eliminating large areas that did not need to be surveyed. Finally, during the spring of 2001 sites were re-evaluated by technical staff and entered into spreadsheets. After several drafts, sixty full-color final reports were printed in May of 2002 and distributed to citizens, agencies, and watershed municipalities.

An added benefit of the project that was not cited in the initial proposal to Maine DEP and the US Environmental Protection Agency was the printing of 1,000 summary brochures that served to describe the project and advertise the formation of the Great Works River Watershed Coalition. The Coalition was formed in May of 2001 as a result of this watershed survey project and has increased its capacity significantly with the assistance of several agency representatives including Forrest Bell and Deb St. Pierre (YCSWCD), Don Kale (Maine DEP), Marilyn Smith-Church (US EPA), and Sarah Gladu (Cooperative Extension). The Coalition currently has an active Board of Supervisors, twenty volunteer members, and monitors the water quality at 18 sites along the Great Works River and select tributaries. The Coalition has received funding support from the Maine Shore Stewards Program to build capacity and design their monitoring program. This field season, the Coalition will expand their monitoring parameters to include E. Coli bacteria, and possibly, Total Phosphorus.

The Coalition is more than a just a water quality monitoring organization, however. The members have co- sponsored Stream Habitat Walks with Maine DEP which will assist the GWRWC in learning more about the main stem of the Great Works River. The Coalition will also act as the Steering Committee for a NPS survey of the 16 square mile northern reaches of the watershed this spring and has combined efforts with the Bauneg Beg Lake Association. (Bauneg Beg is a waterbody which was formed as a result of the damming of the main stem of the Great Works River in Sanford and North Berwick). The GWRWC has been taking part in restoration activities funded under a 319 implementation project for Bauneg Beg and hopes to use this knowledge for writing a watershed management plan and conducting future restoration activities in some of the impaired Great Works River sub-watersheds.

For more information please contact Forrest Bell, Project Manager, Great Works River Watershed Coalition at **207-839-3511 (email: fbenviro@maine.rr.com).**

<u>Great Works River Watershed Coalition Board of Directors:</u>
Mike Cannon (President), South Berwick
Katie Goulet (Vice President), North Berwick
Mal Stevens (Secretary/Treasurer), Wells
Malcolm Child (Volunteer Coord.), South Berwick
Nancy Freese (Data Manager), Noble High School
Forrest Bell (Grant Manager), York County SWCD

CCRP FACTS AND FIGURES

(Editors Note—this was taken from Buffer Notes Jan. 2003 put out by NACD. CCRP = Continuous Conservation Reserve Program offered by USDA's NRCS & FSA.)

Here is a look at some Continuous Conservation Reserve program facts and figures based on USDA reports at the end of the 2002 Fiscal Year (Sept. 30, 2002).

Numbers through the end of the fiscal year show there were 2,129,263 enrolled CCRP acres and 207,121 contracts.

Here are the top 10 states in total acreage:

Iowa	360,890 acres
Illinois	310,727
Minnesota	238,745
Montana	149,095
South Dakota	134,457
North Dakota	128,165
Washington	83,554
Missouri	65,697
Indiana	62,475
Michigan	54,046

Here are the top 10 states by number of contracts:

Iowa	46,746 contracts
Illinois	34,931
Minnesota	21,824
Indiana	16,184
Ohio	12,372
South Dakota	7,806
Missouri	5,917
Nebraska	5,400
North Dakota	5,369
Kentucky	5,131

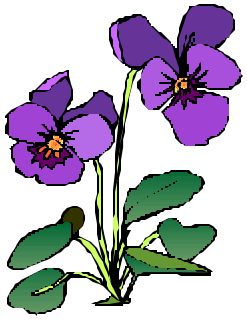
Filter strips, with 815,333 total acres and riparian buffers, with 439,354 acres, were the two most common practices.

Top five filter strip states:

Iowa	207,131 acres
Minnesota	129,384
Illinois	125,916
Washington	48,068
Indiana	444,980

Top five riparian buffer states:

Illinois	86,558
Mississippi	55,130
Iowa	51,412
Minnesota	34,767
South Carolina	26,570



Other highlites:
CREP signups totaled 378,673 total enrolled acres and 23,929 contracts at the end of the fiscal year. (See CREP facts and figures, BufferNotes November 2002 for a more detailed review of CREP totals.)

A total of 39,111 acres of native grass were planted by the end of the fiscal year.

Wildlife plantings totaled 32,993 acres and wetland restorations were at 64,713.

The Farmable Wetland Pilot Project in the six-state prairie pothole region produced 17,845 acres of wetlands and 43,537 acres of associated wetland buffers. Iowa was the leader in both categories with 8,566 acres of wetlands and 22,123 acres of wetlands buffers. The new Farm Bill makes the Farmable Wetlands Program available nationwide.

(Continued from page 4)

a yearly basis. One site was funded by the Maine Department of Conservation and one was funded through MDOT's Surface Water Quality Protection Program. Between the two, this grant leveraged an additional $15,000 for on-the-ground work.

Most notable in this project was the spirit of community that was evident in many of the accomplishments. In particular, Upper Beach Road in Windham, brought a neighborhood together to solve a number of drainage issues on their road. Due to the constraints of the construction budget and the project's mission to equitably distribute funds to areas of need all around the lake, Upper Beach Road was faced with only being able to fix half of the problems on their road. Thankfully, the residents took the initiative to tap into their resources – themselves!

Seventeen volunteers donated approximately 450 hours of their time to attend planning meetings, pick up supplies and, ultimately, do the work. They knocked down a berm on one side of the road, replaced a driveway culvert, increased the capacity of a ditch, and installed a turnout and two drainage ditches to carry water from the road to vegetated buffer areas. In addition, the seventeen volunteers who generously donated their time to help plan as well as implement erosion control measures for their road, also received a wonderful lesson on the link between erosion and lake water quality and what individual landowners can do to abate existing problems.

We often hear that it is the cumulative impact of all the small and large problems that causes lake water quality to decline, but we must also remember that when community members join forces to solve small erosion problems in their neighborhoods, the cumulative benefits for lake water quality can be overwhelming!

For a complete report of the project contact Betty Williams @ 856-2777 (betty-williams@me.nacdnet.org).

(Continued from page 2)

wetlands and riparian areas, as well as the implementation of vegetated treatment systems. A copy of the draft document can be found at www.epa.gov/owow/nps/wetlands.html. CD-ROM copies can be requested from Chris Solloway, EPA, at solloway.chris@epa.gov.

- The *National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Forestry* is nearly complete. A draft was made available for public review and comment last fall. The final version, modified based upon comments received, will be available for distribution in December 2002. For more information, contact Chris Solloway.
- The *National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Agriculture* is also nearing completion. The draft guidance was announced in the *Federal Register* on October 17, 2000. A final guidance is expected this winter. For more information contact Stuart Lehman, EPA, at lehman.stuart@epa.gov.

Overview of the Requirements of the Maine Construction General Permit

(a.k.a.–Stormwater Phase II)

Background

As of March 10, 2003, certain construction activities in Maine will require a Maine Construction General Permit (MCGP). The MCGP is based on the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater program that applies nationwide. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has been delegated authority for this program by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The program provides that certain discharges are not allowed unless they are licensed, and the DEP is licensing certain discharges of stormwater from construction activities when the requirements of the MCGP are met.

The MCGP sets standards for managing stormwater that may pick up pollutants, including soil, and discharge them to waters of the State, such as lakes, streams, and wetlands. The requirement for a MCGP is triggered by the amount of disturbed area created during construction. In contrast to Maine's existing Stormwater Law, the MCGP applies solely to construction activity and not to ongoing stormwater management following construction. Also in contrast to the Stormwater Law, the MCGP applies in both organized and unorganized areas of Maine.

This Issue Profile explains when a MCGP is required and describes the permit process. It provides general information to prospective applicants, and is not meant as a substitute for the law and rules themselves.

Who needs a Construction General Permit?

Stormwater that flows over disturbed areas as a result of rain and snowmelt traveling will pick up pollutants, including soil. These runoff flows are likely to concentrate, resulting in a discharge of pollutants to waters of the State. Given soil, weather, and widespread water resources in Maine, the Department expects most construction sites disturbing an acre or more of land to potentially create a discharge. A landowner, contractor, or developer may need a MCGP if the construction will result in any of the following:

- 1 acre or more of disturbed area;
- a common plan of development located in an organized area that *also* requires a Stormwater Law or Site Location of Development Law permit; or
- a common plan of development located in an unorganized area.

What is "disturbed area"?

"Disturbed area" includes all areas where soil is cleared, graded, or excavated. Cutting trees alone, without grubbing, removing stumps, disturbing or exposing soil, etc. is not considered disturbed area. Disturbed area does not

(Continued on page 10)

Stop–Right now

Drop me an email message with your email address.

Why?
Because the NPS Times is finally going electronic.

Hopefully, in the very near future, almost everyone will receive the NPS Times electronically. This can only happen if you email me your address. So please, STOP right now and email me at kathy.m.hoppe@maine.gov and just put NPS Times in the subject line–that is all you need to do.

Thanks for your support (and help in saving printing & postage costs).

(Continued from page 9)
include routine maintenance, but does include redevelopment. Routine maintenance is maintenance performed to maintain the original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, and original purpose of the facility.

What is a "common plan of development"?
A "common plan of development" means a subdivision as determined by the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) if located in an unorganized area, or a municipality law as determined by the municipality where the subdivision is located. Under this definition, a subdivision will usually, but not always, consist of 3 or more lots. A common plan of development requires coverage under the MCGP because, over the life of the project including work on the lots, at least one acre of land is expected to be disturbed.

How do I apply for a Construction General Permit?
Maine's CGP process has been modeled after the Permit-by-Rule (PBR) process under the Natural Resources Protection Act. Like PBR, the Notice of Intent (NOI) for the MCGP is a one page form filed with the DEP. The NOI must be filed and approved *prior to* any disturbance or construction. Using the NOI form, you will provide information including, but not limited to, your address, the project location, the size of the disturbed area and a brief description of the project. By signing the NOI, you are agreeing to meet standards for erosion and sedimentation control, inspection and maintenance of any stormwater control practices, and "housekeeping," which includes, but is not limited to, preventing fuel spills and controlling dust on the construction site. Specific standards for these activities are found in the MCGP. When you have completed your project and disturbed areas have been permanently stabilized, you must submit a Notice of Termination (NOT) and photos to the DEP. Notification forms and copies of the MCGP can be obtained by calling your regional DEP office or on the web at the following address: http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/docstand/stormwater/construction.htm.

What else do I need to send with my Notice of Intent?
All NOI forms must be accompanied by a site plan for your project. The site plan must show the extent of the disturbed area(s), identify nearby wetlands and waterbodies, and the location of down gradient vegetated buffers. Vegetated buffers are known to be useful for filtering stormwater and should be preserved wherever possible. If buffers cannot be retained, you must explain why. For projects that do not require Stormwater or Site Law permits, these plans do not have to be professionally drawn. However, the plan must be legible, reproducible, and drawn to scale. Written approval from the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (IF&W) must accompany your NOI if your project is located in an essential habitat area. Maps showing these areas are available from the IF&W and at DEP regional offices.

In addition to the site plan, certain projects require an erosion and sedimentation control plan (ESC) to be submitted with the NOI.

Who needs to send an erosion and sedimentation control plan with the NOI?
You must submit an ESC plan with your NOI if your project will result in any of the following:

- 1 acre of more of disturbed area in the watershed of an impaired waterbody (C);
- 3 or more acres of disturbed area in any watershed;
- a common plan of development located in an organized area, that includes 1 acre or more of disturbed area *and* also requires a Stormwater Law or Site Location of Development Law permit;

What is an impaired waterbody (C)?
An "impaired waterbody" is a waterbody that is not meeting its designated water quality classification, as determined by the DEP. If construction activity in a watershed may cause or contribute to the impairment of a river, stream or great pond, that waterbody is designated as "impaired waterbody (C)" and included in the "Construction General Permit List" maintained by the DEP. This list is available from the DEP regional offices or on the web at the following addresses: http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/docstand/stormwater/listCstreams.pdf http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/docstand/stormwater/listClakes.pdf

What is an erosion and sedimentation control plan?
In addition to the information shown on the site plan, an erosion and sedimentation control plan also must show the locations of sediment barriers, water diversions, temporary stockpiles, constructed ditches and swales, and culverts. The plan must also include permanent stabilization measures for each disturbed area and slope. When an erosion and sedimentation control plan is required in conjunction with an NOI, the plan must include control and stabilization measures for all disturbed areas associated with the development, including lots if the project is a common plan of development (i.e. subdivision). Erosion control during construction and stabilization after construction should use Best Management Practices (BMPs). Guidance on standard BMPs for projects not requiring a Stormwater or Site Law permit can be found in Volume III: A Citizens Guide to Best Management Practices for Use with Maine's Construction General Permit, available from the regional offices of the DEP and on the web at: . When carried out properly, these general BMPs are intended to meet the standards of the CGP. More site specific BMPs may be required for sites with additional constraints.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Is the DEP the only authority that can approve my erosion and sedimentation control plan?

No. If your project includes 3 or more acres of disturbed area and directly discharges to a waterbody that is not impaired, your erosion and sedimentation control plan can be signed by a qualified individual, who certifies that the plan meets the standards of the general permit. Qualified individuals include: a person certified in erosion control practices or a "professional in erosion and sedimentation control" so designated by the Maine Nonpoint Source Training and Resources Center; a Maine registered professional engineer knowledgeable in stormwater and erosion and sedimentation control; and Soil and Water Conservation District staff trained to develop erosion and sedimentation control plans, working in a District with which the DEP has an agreement concerning review of these plans. A list of certified persons can be found at: http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/stormwtr/ccec.htm.

The plan must be submitted to the DEP for review if your project includes 1 or more acres of disturbed area discharging to an impaired waterbody (C), if your project requires a Stormwater or Site Law permit, or if your erosion and sedimentation control plan has not been certified by one of these individuals.

Is there a fee for a Construction General Permit?

Yes. A fee of $75 is charged for a CGP that does not require submittal of an erosion and sedimentation control plan. If an erosion and sedimentation control plan is required, the fee for a CGP is $100. These fees are charged to cover program costs.

How long will it take the DEP to process my permit?

An NOI is considered approved 14 days after DEP receives a complete and accurate form *if* the DEP does not notify you otherwise. If the notice is found to be deficient, the DEP *will notify* you within 14 days of receiving it. This period may be extended if the NOI is combined with an application with a longer review period. You may begin work after waiting the 14 days unless otherwise notified.

How long is the Construction General Permit valid?

The Maine CGP will expire July 1, 2004, therefore all MCGPs will be valid until that date. Prior to that date, DEP will develop a general permit or other mechanism to replace the MCGP.

Does the Construction General Permit replace or affect existing Stormwater Law, Site Law, or LURC requirements?
No. However, the DEP is in the process of consolidating application requirements to better coordinate these programs. If your project also requires a Stormwater or Site Law permit, you may reference material submitted with those applications provided that it substantively addresses the standards of the MCGP. If not all the standards are addressed, supplementary material should be provided with the NOI. If you wish the Department to rely in whole or part a submission that is part of a Site Law or Stormwater Management Law application, submit a letter with the NOI describing the previous submission and the extent to which it should be relied upon, and listing the standards addressed by any supplementary material.

If my project site is located in an unorganized area, where do I file my notifications?

All notifications for LURC territories will be processed by the DEP through the Eastern Maine Regional Office (address below).

Are there exemptions under the Construction General Permit?

Yes. Examples of the exemptions include:

- *Forest management activities*
- *Normal farming activities*
- *Normal maintenance activities (described above)*

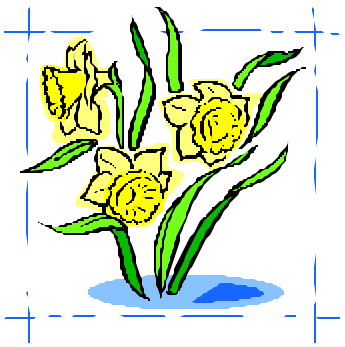
For more information on the Stormwater Phase II program contact Don Witherill at 287-7725 or don.t.witherill@maine.gov OR check out www.MaineDEP.com Stormwater Phase II web pages.

HELP

Please help us take the NPS Times one more step into this Century and help Maine DEP save some money (your tax dollars).

Please drop me an email message at kathy.m.hoppe@maine.gov
And put NPS Times in the subject line.

I will add you to the NPS Times email group who will receive future NPS Times newsletters electronically.
Thanks for the help!



Calendar of Events

March 11 & 12, 2003. Code Enforcement Officials 2003 Institute. Augusta Civic Center. FMI contact Lana Clough at lana.clough@maine.gov

March 26-28, 2003. New England Environmental Biologist Annual Meeting. Massachusetts.

March 27, 2003. Maine Stream Summit. Bowdin College. FMI http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/docstream/team/summit.pdf or contact Mary.lee.haughwout@maine.gov or 207-822-6427. **(Note New Date)**

March 27, 2003. Review of Maine's New Stormwater Rules for wastewater and drinking water programs. Bangor Maine. FMI contact JETC jetcc@maine.rr.com, 253-8020.

March 28, 2003. 16th Annual Conference Maine Environmental Education Association. Chewonki Center for Environmental Education, Wiscasset, Maine. FMI contact Jen Cross 822-7323 or jcross@chewonki.org.

April 16, 2003. Maine Water Conference. Augusta Civic Center. FMI www.umaine.edu/WaterResearch or the George Mitchell Center 581-3244. **(Note new date)**

May 13th-15th, 2003. 14th Annual Nonpoint Source Meeting. Jiminy Peak, The Mountain Resort, Hancock, Massachusetts. FMI Jeremy Pare at 978-323-7929.

May 16, 2003. Southern Maine Children's Water Festival. FMI contact Christine Smith at 207-287-7734.

June 21, 2003. Annual Congress of Lakes Meeting (COLA). University of Maine at Orono. FMI contact Maggie Shannon at msshannon@earthlink.net.

June 28, 2003. VLMP Annual Meeting. Auburn Land Lab, Auburn. Dedicating the new VLMP Location. FMI contact Scott Williams lwrma@megalink.net.

July 28-31, 2003. StormCon: The North American Surface Water Quality Conference & Exposition. San Antonio, TX. FMI info@stormcon.com or www.stormcon.com.

September 22 - 26, 2003. Watershed Restoration Institute. Hosted by the Center for Watershed Protection and River Network Pearlstone Retreat and Conference Center, Reisterstown, Maryland. Questions? Contact Jack Tawil or Stephanie Linebaugh at #410-461-8323, or visit us online at http://www.cwp.org

October 20-23, 2003. 3rd National NPS Education & Outreach Conference. Chicago, Ill. More information to follow in next newsletter.

November 4-8, 2003. North American Lake Managers Society Meeting. Foxwoods Resort/Conference Center, in Mashantucket, CT. FMI Conference Committee Chair Elizabeth Herron at URI (401-874-4552) and/or Program Committee Chair Amy Smagula at NH-DES (603-271-2248).

Troubled Sound: Spawning Coho are dying early in restored creeks

Stormwater runoff flowing into restored Seattle-area creeks and rivers appears to be killing salmon, according to a groundbreaking study by the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service. Eighty-eight percent of coho salmon studied last fall died within hours of swimming into a stream that was being inundated by runoff. Rainwater pours off streets, roofs, and parking lots into the waterways, carrying with it oil, grease, pesticides, and loads of other pollutants. The study suggests that federal efforts to protect salmon and return higher numbers of them to rivers and creeks in the Puget Sound region will face even more challenges than initially anticipated.

For the whole story see: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/107460_coho06.shtml

NALMS - On the East Coast!

This year, the North American Lakes Management Society conference is hosted by the New England Chapter of NALMS and will be held at the Foxwoods Resort/Conference Center, in Mashantucket, CT, during the first full week of November 4-8, 2003. Please consider taking advantage of this great opportunity to share and participate in this 'not to be missed' international lakes/watershed symposium.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is Wednesday, April 30, 2003. As always, we are planning for a wide variety of speaker and poster presentations, and welcome submissions any time up to the deadline. Complete details regarding this conference and call for papers is available on the NALMS website at:

http://www.nalms.org or contact Conference Committee Chair Elizabeth Herron at URI (401-874-4552) and/or Program Committee Chair Amy Smagula at NH-DES (603-271-2248).

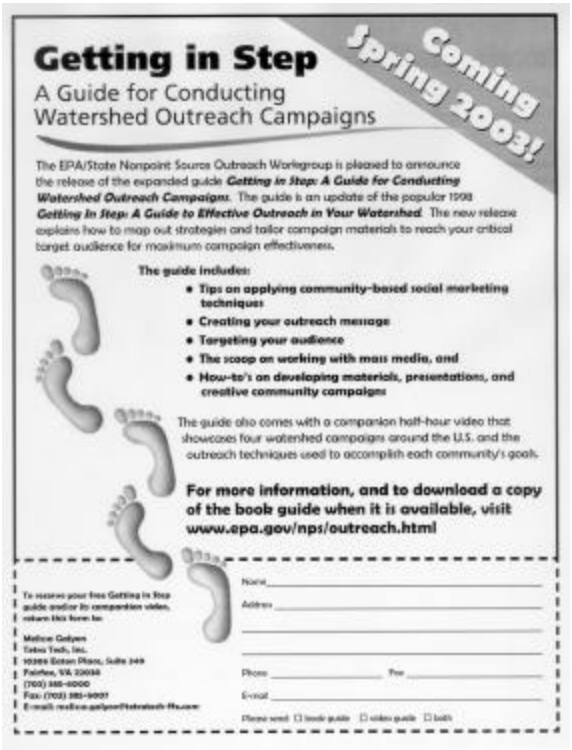
Resources Available

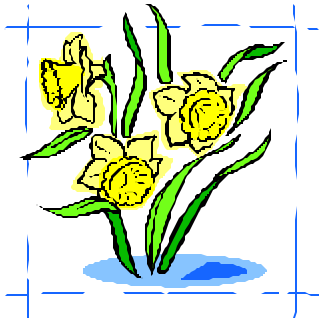
National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Agriculture. EPA has released technical guidance to address the implementation of management programs for agricultural NPS pollution. The guidance highlights best available, economically achievable means of combating such pollution, and discusses monitoring techniques, load estimation techniques, and watershed approaches. It may be found at: http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/agmm/index.html

The USEPA's Community Culture and the Environment: A Guide to Understanding a Sense of Place. 2003. FMI CCEinfo@tetratech-ffx.com.

A Guide to Understanding a Sense of Place. EPA. The USEPA's Community Culture and the Environment: A Guide to Understanding a Sense of Place is available for ordering. The Guide explores the concepts of community and culture and provides tools for identifying, assessing, and working cooperatively within the social dynamics and local values connected to environmental protection. Learn more about how this resource by visiting http://www.epa.gov/ecocommunity/tools/community.pdf.

The Practice of Watershed Protection: Techniques for Protecting Our Nation's Streams, Lakes, Rivers and Estuaries. Center for Watershed Protection. FMI www.cwp.org.





To receive NPS Times electronically—please email me at:

Kathy.m.hoppe@maine.gov

And put NPS Times in the subject line.

Thank you for your help and support.

This newsletter is prepared especially of those involved in nonpoint source pollution issues. It is funded through an EPA 319 Clean Water Act Grant. If you have any announcements, comments or items for the Nonpoint Source Times, or if you would like to be added to the mailing list, please call or write:

Kathy Hoppe
Maine DEP
1235 Central Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769
phone: 207/764-0477
fax: 207/764-1507
kathy.m.hoppe@maine.gov

Clean water starts with you!

Maine DEP
1235 Central Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769

www.MaineDEP.Com